

[REDACTED]
Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000100190016-7

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15 May 1970

Project No. 51.5567

Economic and Military Reconstruction in North Vietnam
During April 1970

Introduction

This monthly report reviews developments in the reconstruction of fixed military facilities and industrial plants and new construction activities that are pertinent to North Vietnam's continuing support of the war and to economic recovery. [REDACTED]

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Military Activities

[REDACTED] the runway of the new Quan
Lang airfield on Route 7 in western North Vietnam is serviceable.

[REDACTED]
karst hills in the area and is 1,800 meters in length and 35 meters
wide. Jet aircraft probably will not be based at the airfield, however,
until taxiways and support facilities are completed. Work is going
forward on the taxiway and parking apron connecting the runway to

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[REDACTED]
airfield. The new four kilometer road bypass around Quan Lang has
been completed and is being utilized by vehicle traffic on Route 7.
The Quan Lang airfield is about 16 miles from the Laotian border and
undoubtedly will be used to support air defense operations in the
Barthelemy Pass area.

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POL Pipelines

2. Recently observed additions to the POL pipeline network
indicate a growing reliance upon the system for distributing POL
products throughout the country and into Laos. In the North Vietnamese
Panhandle, the completion of two segments totaling more than eight miles
was noted along a major logistical route which enters into Laos just

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north of the DMZ.

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3. The North Vietnamese are also laying a POL pipeline from the

major coal port of Hon Gai.

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pipe sections is the rule in the southern pipelines. The ultimate use of the pipeline is unclear at this time. It could be extended to the large storage tanks at Haiphong, allowing Hon Gai to serve as the entryway for tankers unable to negotiate the shallow channel leading to Haiphong. Besides alleviating the time-consuming operation of lightering POL products to Haiphong, the new line if extended could provide a steady flow of petroleum despite inclement weather or the effects of US air operations. The pipeline could also be continued inland along its present alignment to serve the major industrial areas north of Hanoi as well as the capital itself.

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Economic Activities

4. [REDACTED]

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shows only one significant development in industrial reconstruction.

At the Haiphong Cement Plant a fourth kiln appears to be in sustained operation. This kiln will bring the plant's production capacity up to about 400,000 tons a year, two-thirds of its former capacity. [REDACTED]

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9. Construction on the Chamber of Commerce Wharves in Haiphong continued at one end of the new extension which will displace the single berthing space at the Hospital Wharf. This expansion would further Haiphong's efforts to alleviate the problem of ship congestion by providing space for a maximum of four ships in addition to two berths recently completed which are adjacent to the current construction. [REDACTED]

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Conclusions

11. Few significant developments were noted in new reconstruction or construction work during April. The runway of the new Quan Lang airfield near the Barthelmy Pass is [not] serviceable, but aircraft have not yet been deployed there. Two new segments of POL pipeline near the DMZ have been built and a new POL pipeline was started at Hon Gai, the country's major coal port. Further expansion of wharves at Haiphong is apparent from work observed during April.

12. Little reconstruction of industry was noted during the month.

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